

it was regarded by many as merely provided by the Chamber. He made the point that despite French pro-

the British Government have insisted that if France pays £50,000,000 to the United States Government, the Mellon-Brenger funding agreement is not ratified—under the agreement of 1924 a proportional cash payment must also be made. The Government is in perhaps a narrow strait whether the "pari passu" war debts agreement of 1924 could really be made to apply to the new loan made by the American bankers, but M. Poincaré was doubtless inclined in assuming that Mr. Churchill's demand for £100 million would be a ratification of the Young scheme, but also upon the Rhineland Commission of Control, may well prove difficult.

Telephony de Luxe.

Unfortunate people who have spent a half-hour in a telephone box and endured furore to the bad and with nothing achieved, will agree with me that the Government should inaugurate on the English telephone service. In Leeds and many other towns there is the safe, "number first and pennies last" system, but in London, where a half-hour be wasted the pennies are not lost. But in London, and other

ful and busy person to squander both time and money in a telephone kiosk, despite the firmest intentions to do neither. There may be bureaucratic

“Please read thoroughly all the regulations to ensure efficient service,” and “All complaints must be addressed to the Controller in writing”; yet it can quickly be shown how entirely blameless is the unhappy victim. Two pennies are inserted. “Number, please!” Press button “A” (clink go the pennies beyond recall)—“is that Mr. Paddington 1340.” “Hullo!”

1940." And there it is. One returns to the Exchange, and if one gets the right number all is well, but what usually happens is "Number engaged" or "No reply." Then one tries to get Mr. E. at another address, and the same thing happens again—after which

repeated conversations with the operator only lead to "I'll put you through to the Supervisor," followed by "The Supervisor is engaged." Renewed efforts may with great luck

lead to the arrival, a week later, of a most neatly typed letter—armed with references—saying, "Arrangements have been made for the fee paid to be refunded and stamps to the value of £d. are enclosed herewith." Such is

one of the delights of the new system. "Press button 'B' and insert coins—I did not hear them go in" is another little snag when one is in a hurry. But much the worst fault of the British

to get used to it, because the whole range of audible frequencies is represented—someone may be grooming a horse or running a motor boat at the other end—and you never know your luck.

Cross the Atlantic, and you find a delightful contrast. The Canadian looks upon the telephone as the primary means of communication, to be used in place of letters, postcards or telegrams.

whenever possible. The "hullo-girl" of the West often seems much less formal and business-like than her British equivalent, but she puts you through — and puts you through quickly. Then, there is none of the

curious suspicion at the receiving end that is often apparent in this country. "Who is it speaking, and with reference to what?" are queries frequent but seldom necessary. If calls are sometimes superfluous they cost less

money in wasted time than long questionings whenever the telephone bell rings. In the land where a junior's time is worth 3s. or 4s. an hour one does not have to repeat one's business to a

variety of stenographers and secretaries. In small Canadian towns it is quite usual to arrange over the telephone all sorts of important business deals without any confirmation in writing. The cautious executive's hair may

stand on end at the thought of the legal difficulties there would be if differences of opinion arose—but it can only be said that the Canadian trusts to luck and rarely gets let down. The telephone habit saves much open-

ing of letters and filling of waste-paper baskets. The great principle, which is the corner-stone of American business, is applied to the telephone business as much as to other enterprises. Make a

commodity cheap and attractive, and the public will buy it. Don't let the subscriber feel he is spending money every time he uses the telephone—give him an unlimited call. What you lose on the swings you gain with interest.

on the roundabouts. And—advertise. The telephone is far superior to most additions to the household of an equivalent price, yet in these islands it receives practically no publicity. Perhaps—if its improvements equal the

claims made—the new one-handed instrument now being introduced in Great Britain will make the 'phone more popular. Cannot some more of us give the service a trial, remembering that,

Milk for School Children.

The scheme which was approved by the Leeds Education Committee yesterday for ensuring that school children, or as many of them as care for it, shall have a supply of milk daily, will have

the general sympathy of those who look below the surface of such activities. There was a time—not very long ago—when such a term as “milk-sop” was the uttermost expression of contempt, applicable, for a time, though the girl of

especially for a boy, though the girl of to-day would resent just as much as any boy the implications which then attached to the word. Probably when the farmers made the country ring with their "slogan": "Drink more milk,"

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LONDON NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

FLEET STREET, Wednesday Night.

Rhineland Evacuation.

Mr. MacDonald's Government, I have reason to believe, is insisting very strongly upon the necessity that evacuation of the Rhineland by the Allied Powers shall take place before September when the Dawes Plan, with its provision for German payments on account of troop-maintenance, ceases to operate. It is, doubtless, hardly to be expected that at every last man and gun will be out of the stated area, but that the British Government are determined that the process of evacuation shall by that time have well progressed. The French objection is well known. The French fear that until that part of German

Yemens secured to France on account of reparations by the League of Nations, and a loan floated, France has no more guarantees than for any eventual payments.

Thus the situation in the Middle East is not so simple as it might seem. The scheme rigidly conditioned on the evacuation of French troops from the Levant, France cannot accept. The successful floating of a loan which would be subject to the ratification of the scheme, Mr. MacDonald or his colleagues would not have been able to show to reconcile the two points of view. The question arises whether the recent French Government would have been able to bring the matter to the German view on this point.

Unemployment Insurance Fund.

The Cabinet at its meeting to-day had under consideration a wide range of objections, a number of which will be mentioned in the King's Speech next week. The Government are aware that the House will make for dealing with unemployment are anxiously awaited.

The Lord Privy Seal, or Minister of Finance, Mr. MacDonald, has been generally called, has had conferences with Ministers, colleagues and the Opposition, and has been told the Cabinet has had before it the

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tain, the present ruler of Soviet Asia. It might, so the argument goes, lead to the resumption of diplomatic relations if this country were to show any hospitality at this time to the Soviet Government and Red Army, whom the people as a whole in power in Moscow have sent to the aid of the Chinese.

There are other valid reasons for refusing a British visit to Trotsky. But the main reason is that the Soviet Government is protesting against the action of the "sacred right" in the interests of our fugitives. I should not be greatly surprised if the Soviet Government should refuse to receive the present British Minister of State for India, Captain Edward Renn, of a very eloquent and distinguished family, for the next days when he was still a member the Liberal Party.

Mr. Dunn's New Post.

The Rev. Herbert Dunn, who was promoted to the House on Tuesday last as Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means (Department of Finance), is a son of Mr. Robert Young as Chairman and Deputy Secretary, will be a member of religion to occupy that position at the same time. The fact that an exceptionally large number of members of the Government belong to profane families

case with Mr. Dunnico. He is the president of the Lancelotti-Lancaster miner. During the Prayer of Contrition he stood up for the spiritual autonomy of the Church of England, and, in the presence of the control of greyhound racing and, more important, he differed from the majority of the members of the late Government's action in sending the expeditionary Force to Shanghai.

If the custom for the Chairman of the Committee to wear a top hat seems to wear evening dress after dinner when presiding over the House, Mr. Dunnico, who wears for the purpose his usual clerical attire. The prayer attached to the post of Deputy Chairman, Mr. Young, receives £2,300 a year.

Mr. Dunnico is an old footballer, and has been a member of the Football Club, the holders of the Amateur Cup, accompanied them over on his German tour at Easter.

Lord Gainford's Statement.

The suggestion made by Lord Gainford was that the Government should

that the Government and miners leaders should concentrate on securing at "hours of work and rates of pay were brought by international agreement into some position of parity," rather than by an attempt to repeal the eight hours Act, offers the Government a means of saving the face. The miners have pledged themselves to a policy of shorter hours, but they cannot be blind to the danger that any disturbance of the industry at the present juncture would mean the loss of the export trade, which has only been regained during the last few months after two years of enormous sacrifice, and the wrecking of the prospects of a steady improvement in the world demand for fuel is undoubtedly a possibility; but an upheaval in the mining industry would simply mean that the whole of the increase in the world con-

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SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

Royal Confirmation of Speaker's Election.

A LARGE FAMILY.

(By Spectator.)

WESTMINSTER, Wednesday.

The long business of swearing in the members of the new Parliament began both Houses to-day. It should be a solemn occasion, but solemnity is impossible to maintain among several hundreds of human beings for five hours, except under barrack room dis-

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inv Simon.
The Liberal ex-Ministers were being called.
T. P. O'Connor. "Father of the
Mr. Jack was wheeled in a bath chair
the oath and signed the roll. The
The men who had not the distinction of
The Privy Council had been waiting
for their turn; for the Speaker
deavoured to give precedence to the
order according to their numerical
length. The Speaker then called
oath and signing the roll, each
member was introduced to the Speaker
and the Speaker gave to each a
promise to be a personal friend to
Troyne, had a word and a smile for
each. He then said he would expect to
recognize them all, and that he would
be sure to be as friendly to them as
men unerringly when they wish to
ask. A circle of friends so wide as
responsibilities—and its drawbacks.

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